## Supporting information for:

## Fluorescence response of cruciform $D-\pi$ -A- $\pi$ -D phenothiazine

## derivatives to mechanical force

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*Fig. S1* (a) Absorption and (b) fluorescence spectra of EPTD in different solvents. c) Lippert–Mataga plot: fluorescence emission maximum energy of EPTD as a function of solvent polarity.  $\lambda_{ex} = 400$  nm. C = 5 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M.

$\lambda_{abs}$ (nm) 417 430 4	28
λ <sub>em</sub> (nm) 509 561 605 6	09

**Table S1.** Photophysical data of EPTD in different solvents.



Fig. S2 Cyclic voltammetry curve of EPTD in dry THF at a scan rate of 0.1 V/s.

	$\lambda_{abs}{}^a$	$\lambda_{onset}{}^{a}$	$E_{g}^{b}$	HOMO <sup>c</sup>	LUMO <sup>d</sup>	HOMO <sup>e</sup>	LUMO <sup>e</sup>
	(nm)	(nm)	(eV)	(eV)	(eV)	(eV)	(eV)
EPTD	325, 417	482	2.57	-4.95	-2.38	-4.81	-2.17

**Table S2.** Photophysical data of EPTD in THF and energy levels obtained by cyclic voltammogram and quantum chemical calculation based on EPTD-E.

<sup>a</sup> Measured in THF (10<sup>-5</sup> M); <sup>b</sup> E<sub>g</sub> was determined from the edge of the absorption spectrum. <sup>c</sup> HOMO energy level was obtained by first oxidation peak in DMF with ferrocene/ferrocenium ( $F_c/F_c^+$ ) as an internal reference. <sup>d</sup> E<sub>LUMO</sub> = E<sub>HOMO</sub>+E<sub>g</sub>. <sup>e</sup> DFT calculated at theoretical level of B3LYP/6-31G.

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		Transition	Transition assignment	$E(\alpha)/\lambda$	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}$	Oscillator
		Transition	Indisition assignment	L (EV)	(nm)	strength
]	EPTD	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	HOMO-2→LUMO (9.2 %)	3.0316	408.97	1.6087
			HOMO-1→LUMO+2			
			(3.5 %)			
			HOMO→LUMO (82.4%)			

**Table S3.** Photophysical data of EPTD in vacuum obtained by quantum chemical calculation.



Fig. S3 Frontier orbitals of EPTD optimized in vacuum.



*Fig. S4* XRD patterns of (a) EPTD-Y and (b) EPTD-R in pristine crystals, ground and fumed solids. Dot lines are stimulated XRD patterns.



Fig. S5 UV-Vis absorption spectra of (a) EPTD-Y and (b) EPTD-R in different states.

chemical		•				
	Dipole moment (Debye)	Transition	Transition assignment	E (eV)	λ <sub>abs</sub> (nm)	Oscillator strength
Z-form	4.79	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	HOMO-2→LUMO (9.6 %)	3.5384	350.39	1.8105
			HOMO-1→LUMO+2			
			(7.5 %)			
			HOMO→LUMO (73.7 %)			
E-form	0	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	HOMO-2→LUMO (12.1 %)	3.5055	353.69	1.4926
			HOMO-1→LUMO+2			
			(5.4 %)			
			HOMO→LUMO (75.0 %)			

**Table S4.** Photophysical data of EPTD in Z-form and E-form obtained by quantum chemical calculation.



*Fig. S6* Molecular stacking and the interaction between ester groups and phenothiazine moieties in EPTD-R crystal.



Fig. S7 XRD patterns of BPTD in different states.



Fig. S8 UV-Vis absorption spectra of BPTD in different states.